

Standoff Holder and Standoff Pad for Ultrasound Probe
Serial Number: 10/695,988

Amendments to CLAIMS:

Claims 1- 12 Canceled – on pages 17 – 19 (remove claims 1- 12)

Claims – 13- 20 NEW – Add new claim to Pages 17 – 19

Please add Claim 13 -20 as follows:

[000013]

A standoff holder for an ultrasound transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasound treatment to insure coupling with a body comprising:

an elongated elastic sock for mounting over a probe including an acoustic window comprising a first open end and a second end and an internal aperture extending therethrough, wherein,

said first open end includes an expansion collar including a plurality of spaced rigid strips mounted circumferentially about said probe including said acoustic window.

[00014]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

the spaced rigid strips are separated by elastic sock forming a plurality of expansion ribs and said elastic sock comprises a series of parallel axial ribs of elastic material.

[00015]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 2 wherein:

the elastic sock comprises material with decreasing flexibility and increasing rigidity from the second open end to the expansion collar at the first open end.

[00016]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

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The rigid strips in the collar comprise a spaced plurality of axial plastic strips.

[00017]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

the cross-sectional configuration of the elastic sock is round when unmounted on a probe.

[00018]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein;

the cross-sectional shape of the elastic sock conforms to the shape of the probe when mounted.

[00019]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 further including:

a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting within the ribbed collar.

[00020]

A standoff holder for an ultrasonic transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasonic treatments to insure coupling with a body comprising:

an elastic collar for mounting over the external surface of a probe having a first open end and a second open end and an internal aperture extending therethrough to accommodate the shape of said probe including an acoustic window on said probe;

said elastic collar mounted about said probe and extending outwardly from said acoustic window; and, a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting with said collar in engagement with said probe's acoustic window and extending outwardly therefrom.